G R S 59]

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

1900-11
(Education)

File No: 118-10

Serial Nos. 1

Papers Filed.

Month September 10

SUBJECT

Help to the International Committee for the publication of Mahabaratha

PREVIOUS REFERENCES	LATER REFERENCES
	Edn 118-W (2+3)

1910

No 2036 Con 11 8-10 Sl-1

Name of Petitioner, P S Sivaswami Iyer Esq Advocate General

Village, Madras

Taluk, Madras

District,

Date of Arzi, 28 June 10

Date of Receipt,

Date of Disposal,

No of Enclosure,

ABSTRACT

Sends a copy of the appea by the International Committee for the publicati- -tion of a critical edition of the Mahabharata

No answer

Arzi

GPB—500—17 5 09

An Appeal to the Princes and Nobles of I Contribute to the Expenses of Producing a Edition of the Mahābhārata

At the General Meeting of the International Association of held in London in May, 1904, a resolution urging the prep critical edition of the *Mahābhārata*, was moved by the German of Göttingen, Leipzig, Munich, and Vienna, and passed In the e this undertaking the Academies of Amsterdam, Berlin, Gotting London (British Academy), Munich, Paris (Académie des Inscription Lettres), St Petersburg, Rome, and Vienna are taking part With the realization of their purpose these Academies have elected a M Committee consisting of the following members, Prof F KIELHORN Prof E KUHN (Munich), Prof A MACDONELL (Oxford, British Dr S D'OLDENBURG (St Petersburg), Prof R PISCHEL (Berlin), F SCHROEDER (Vienna), Dr E SENART (Paris), Prof J S SPEIJER (A Prof E WINDISCH (Leipzig) This committee, which since its formatio tunately been deprived by death of the services of two of its member KIELHORN and PISCHEL, has appointed an editorial sub committee c Professors E HOPKINS (Newhaven, U S A), H JACOBI (Bonn), H LUD and M WINTERNITZ (Prague)

The reasons which have induced the associated Academies to great enterprise are easy to understand The pre eminent import gigantic Epic, the *Mahābhārata*, is universally acknowledged Next to it is the most valuable product of the entire literature of ancient Inc so rich in notable works Venerable by its very antiquity, it is one imposing literary monuments of the world, an inexhaustible mine for th tion of the religion, mythology, cosmology, legend, folklore, philosophy, political and social institutions of ancient India

Though so many other monuments of early Indian literature ar in model editions, it has hitherto been impossible to prepare a critic this enormous work, containing as it does more than 85,000 couple easily explained by the vast extent of such an undertaking as wel extraordinary difficulties that it presents These difficulties are lar the great diversity and complexity of the forms in which the text has been handed down

As a result of the researches which have hitherto been carried o be no doubt that the text of the *Mahābhārata* has undergone numerc additions, and omissions The texts of the North Indian and of the S Manuscripts are consequently widely divergent But even within these numerous differences are again apparent In the Northern MSS, hitherto been the more carefully investigated, at least five different rec be distinguished The divergences within the South Indian group n

To this expenditure must be added the cost of printing, which will be as it is for various reasons necessary to print the work in Europe

The following is the estimate furnished by the Clarendon Press at

"Text with Critical Notes,
Composition in the style of the specimen page,
Supplying paper,
And printing
500 copies of 850 sheets at £7 10s 0d per sheet of 16 pages,
750 " " £7 19s 9d " " "
1000 " " £8 9s 6d " " "
Corrections in proof would be extra"

Unfortunately so large a sum by far exceeds the amount, namely, ab which the combined Academies have found it possible to set aside for th of the critical edition of the *Mahābhārata* The Academies will there a position to complete this great undertaking only if they can c substantial aid from other sources Whence could such aid for an edi *Mahābhārata* more appropriately come than from India itself, and abo the Princes and Nobles of that country?—from India, whose heroic tal religion, and philosophy are the theme of this admirable Epic, anc Indian Princes and Nobles, whose glorious ancestors are celebrated thr warriors in the great Bhārata battle, as brave, wise, and pious heroes! T of India and of its Princes and Nobles is for all time inseparably linke *Mahabhārata,* the greatest Epic the world has produced If the P Nobles of India were to associate themselves with this imposing which all the learned Academies of the West have combined to pro would indeed be supporting a *national work*

We are glad to say that several Indian gentlemen of distinction, re all parts of India, have in this sense expressed their readiness to in promoting the production of the great *Mahābhārata* edition The these gentlemen are the following —

Mahārāja Sir PRODYOT KUMAR TAGORE, Tagore Castle, (
The Hon Mr Justice CHANDRAVARKAR, Bombay
Sir PROTUL CHANDRA CHATTERJEA, Lahore, Panjab
Mr GANGA PRASAD VARMA, Lucknow, United Provinces
Mr ROMESH DUTT, C I E, Baroda, Gujarat
The Hon Mr Justice C SANKARAN NAIR, C I E, Madr
Mr Advocate General P S SIVASWAMI IYER, Madras
The Hon Mr Justice KRISHNASWAMI IYER, Madras

To the hands of these gentlemen the International Mahābhārata confidently entrusts the task of taking the steps necessary to secure t of this national cause

A special page at the commencement of the edition will contributions, in excess of Rs 1000, and no names other than those Princes and Nobles, who by their generous aid will have ensured the of this work, will be entered in this particular list

Ms 2036

All drafts and cheques should be made payable to *Messrs Henry S King & Co, "Mahābhārata Fund"* and should be sent to Messrs. HENRY S KING & Co, 65 Cornhill, London or to one of the gentlemen named on page 3 who will kindly send them on to the above named bankers in London

As representatives of European scholarship devoted to the study of India, its literature and culture we the undersigned in the name and at the instance of the associated Academies, issue this appeal to the Princes and Nobles of India to rally themselves with the learned Societies of the West in supporting the publication of a work that is in a unique manner bound up with the life history of the peoples of India.

L. v. SCHROEDER, Vienna

Chairman of the International Committee superintending the publication of the critical edition of the *Mahabharata*

H. LÜDERS, Berlin,

Chairman of the Editorial Sub Committee appointed to control the publication of the critical edition of the *Mahabharata*

A. A. MACDONELL, Oxford,

Member of the International Mahabhārata Committee appointed by the British Academy

VIENNA—BERLIN—OXFORD
November 19, 1909.